

Psalm 8 Notes

5-31-23

v.1) Refrain (cf. v.9)

"O LORD, our Lord..."

YHWH

Adonai

nb: LXX "translates" both as Kúrios, but they're ≠ same

Theme: Glory of Yahweh's
name ~~revealed~~ in
creation

cf. Rom. 1:20 - "they are
without excuse"

↳ cp. Gen 1:1-2:4
(OT lesson)

v.2) Jesus quotes this at
"Triumphal" entry to
Jerusalem on Palm Sun.
Matt. 21:16

nb: versification is different
in Hebrew Bible (MT)
than in English versions.

v. 3) astronomical bodies
are amazing.

Q. Do you study the moon
and stars?

nb: Rob't. Harmon has learned
how to navigate by the
stars.

v. 4) "man" = וְאָדָם

"son of man" = בֶּן־אָדָם

nb: LXX and Vul follow MT.

LXX: "man" = $\alpha\nu\theta\rho\omega\pi\omicron\varsigma$

mindful = זָכַר = remember

care = בָּרַחַץ = make a
search;
visit

v. 5) "heavenly beings" =

אֱלֹהִים = God / gods

LXX: $\alpha\gamma\gamma\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\omicron\upsilon\varsigma$ (angels)

v. 6) "give dominion" =
hifil of שׁוּטָה
↓
"judge"

LXX: καθίστημι

* not same verb
as Gen. 1:26 שׁוּטָה
 ↓
 שׁוּטָה

vv. 7-8) all animal kingdom:
birds, fish & beasts

v. 9) Refrain (cf. v. 1) -
forms inclusio around
Psalm

Review: Hebrew parallelism

synonymous
synthetic
antithetical
building → climax

nb: Translation matters

! new NIV turns vs. 4 into generic plurals instead of masc. singular.
It neuter's Christ!

"what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"

masc. sing.
in Heb.

They even botch it up in Hebrews 2:6-8!

Commentaries

v.1) Adonai is "honorific" plural
(Saleska, p. 218)

Psalmist praises YHWH, not
creation.

Humans are creatures, but
God isn't.

Modern science marvels at
universe & decides humanity
is small & insignificant,
not very important or
remarkable!

But Psalmist looks at
creation and realizes man is
God's crowning achieve-
ment. It defies reason,
but it's true (cp. John 3:16)

man alone is made in
God's image & likeness
(expressed in dominion).

Study of animal intelligence in dolphins, apes, and dogs may convince people we're not so different than the animals (language, feelings, etc.). But that's not what Bible teaches.

Yet after the Fall, we no longer bear God's image. Image of God is lost in humanity.

Christ alone is the true image of the invisible God. We are being conformed to his image, and when he appears, we shall be like him.